

**REMARKS**

Claims 1 – 33 are currently remain pending. However, as the Examiner has withdrawn claims 1 – 17, directed to the non-elected species, only claims 18 – 33 are currently under consideration. By this amendment, claim 27 has been amended for the Examiner's consideration. Further, Applicant notes that claim 27 has been amended to correct a dependency matter. By the present remarks, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome, and respectfully request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application.

***35 U.S.C. §102(b) Rejections*****1. Over Holz**

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 31 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by HOLZ (U.S. 3,785,495). The Examiner asserts that Figure 1a of HOLZ shows a centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk (top ring near 49, 50 can be regarded as a disk) oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap (between 49, 50 and top of basket 28) through which at least a part of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element, as recited in the pending claims. Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertions.

Applicants' independent claim 31 recites, in part, *inter alia*,

"said centrifugal rotor being structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element by drawing the portions of the fibrous suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element, and to reject the remainder of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber."

Applicant submits that HOLZ fails to anticipate at least the above-noted combination of features, as recited in Applicant's pending claims.

Applicant notes that HOLZ discloses a rotating filter basket 46 having scrubbing vanes 48 carried by a sealing ring 49 installed on cover 16. See Figure 1a and Col. 3, lines 3-5. HOLZ shows the fibrous suspension flows upward along annular partition 22 and through rotating filter basket 46. However, contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the contaminants do not pass through the rotating filter basket 46. Instead, coarse contaminants in HOLZ settle downwardly along the inside of annular partition 22, such that the annular partition has an opening at its bottom to form contamination gutter 24. In fact, HOLZ recites, *inter alia*:

"Contaminants that cannot pass through rotating filter basket 46 settle downwardly along the inside of annular partition 22 – to which end the annular partition has (not shown) apertures at its bottom – and thus also arrive at contamination gutter 24." See Col. 3, lines 25-35.

Notwithstanding the above, Applicant submits HOLZ does not disclose or even arguably suggest a *centrifugal rotor being structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element by drawing the portions of the fibrous suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element, and to reject the remainder of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber*, as recited in the pending claims.

In particular, the Examiner asserts that the centrifugal rotor of HOLZ is structured as a disk (top ring near 49 and 50 can be regarded as a disk) oriented at right angles to an

axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap (between 49, 50 and top of basket 28). However, there is no teaching or suggestion in HOLZ, or any other cited document, which arguably suggests that a basket could instead be a disk. Moreover, contrary to the Examiner's assertions, HOLZ clearly shows a sealing gasket 50, i.e., labyrinth water sealing gasket, on its upper edge of the rotating filter basket 46, as well as a second gasket 52 at the bottom edge of the rotating filter basket 46 arranged to cover the Examiner's asserted gap. See Figures 1a and 2a and Col. 3, lines 3-11. In fact, as discussed above, HOLZ shows the suspension flowing upward along annular partition 22 and without the coarse contaminants passing through the rotating filter basket 46 settle downwardly along the inside of annular partition 22. Thus, Applicant submits that HOLZ fails teach or suggest *a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element*, as well as *drawing the suspension radially inwardly through the ring gap*, as recited in independent claim 31.

Because HOLZ fails to disclose each and every element recited in the claims, Applicant submits that HOLZ fails to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b).

Accordingly, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 31-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102.

## 2. Over Rienecker

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 18 – 28 and 31 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by RIENECKER et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0069985) [hereinafter "RIENECKER"]. The Examiner asserts that Figures 1 and 7 of

RIENECKER shows a centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk (rotor structure 1 when viewed from above) oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap (between bottom of 1 and 2) through which at least a part of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element, as recited in the pending claims. Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertions.

Applicants' independent claim 18 recites, in part, *inter alia*,

"said centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element."

As recited above, Applicants' independent claim 31 recites, in part, *inter alia*,

"said centrifugal rotor being structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element by drawing the portions of the fibrous suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element, and to reject the remainder of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber."

Applicant submits that RIENECKER fails to anticipate at least the above-noted combination of features, as recited in Applicant's pending claims.

Applicant notes that RIENECKER discloses an intake chamber 10 having a screen element 1 that is set in rotation with rotor/shaft 24 and fixed screen scrapers 8 located on the discharge side of the screen element 1. See paragraph [0052]. However, Applicant notes that REINECKER fails to provide any disclosure of *a rotor structured as a disk, or of a gap formed between the rotor and the wire through which the suspension is drawn radially inwardly*, as recited in at least independent claims 18 and 31.

In particular, RIENECKER clearly discloses the screen element 1 as a *conical* first

screen element having an opening angle  $\alpha$  between  $10^\circ$  and  $170^\circ$  (see paragraph [0012]), which is completely different than the rotor disclosed in Applicant's instant invention. Furthermore, RIENECKER discloses the conical structure of the screen element providing for increased centrifugal forces acting on the contaminants entering from the intake, such that the more the longitudinal direction of the screen opening is oriented radially, the stronger the free centrifugal effect and the lower the danger of particles being caught in the openings. Additionally, the conical structure of the screen element of REINECKER provides for increased rejects of heavy particles due to gravity from the heavy particles (in the contaminants) being subjected to increased centrifugal forces from the screen element.

See paragraph [0014]. On the other hand, REINECKER fails to provide any disclosure of *a rotor structured as a disk, or of a gap formed between the rotor and the wire through which the suspension is drawn radially inwardly*, as recited in at least independent claims 18 and 31. In fact, the Examiner has not identified any teaching in the art of record that even arguably suggests that a conical screen would be construed a disk, as utilized in the instant invention. Further, the Examiner has not provided any teaching to even arguably suggest that suspension is drawn through a gap between the rotor and screen, or even if a gap exists in the REINECKER structure.

Because RIENECKER fails to disclose at least the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that this document fails to show each and every recited feature of the invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and that the instant rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 19 – 28, 32, and 33 are allowable at least for

the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicant submits that RIENECKER fails to anticipate, *inter alia*, said portion of the fibrous suspension passing said at least one wire element is based on dimensions of fibrous material particles with the fibrous suspension, as recited in claim 19; said fibrous material particles comprise fibers, as recited in claim 20; said centrifugal rotor comprises a driven centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 21; said ring-shaped gap has an axial width of at most 100 mm, as recited in claim 22; said axial width of said ring-shaped gap is at most 10 mm, as recited in claim 23; said disk is closed, as recited in claim 24; further comprising a drivable wire scraper structured and arranged to keep said at least one wire element clear, as recited in claim 25; said drivable wire scraper and said centrifuge rotor are connected to a same rotor, as recited in claim 26; an outside diameter of said centrifuge rotor is at least a same size of an outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 27; said outside diameter of said centrifugal rotor is at least 1.2 times the size of said outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 28; further comprising a drivable wire scraper structured and arranged to keep said at least one wire element clear, as recited in claim 32; and said drivable wire scraper and said centrifuge rotor are connected to a same rotor drive, as recited in claim 33.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 18 – 28 and 31 – 33 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over RIENECKER and indicate that these claims are allowable.

3. Over Young

Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 18 – 21, 24, 27, and 29 – 30 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by YOUNG (U.S. Patent No. 5,096,127). The Examiner asserts that Figure 4 of YOUNG shows a centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part of the fibrous suspension is said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element, as recited in the pending claims. Applicant traverses the Examiner's assertions.

As recited above, Applicants' independent claim 18 recites, in part, *inter alia*,

"said centrifugal rotor being structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element."

Applicant submits that YOUNG fails to anticipate at least the above-noted combination of features, as recited in Applicant's pending claims.

Applicant notes that YOUNG discloses a cylinder with radial blades so as to draw the suspension into the wire basket in an axial direction. However, YOUNG fails to disclose *a rotor structured as a disk oriented at right angles to an axis of rotation and arranged to form a ring-shaped gap through which at least a part of the fibrous suspension in said intake chamber travels radially inwardly and into said at least one wire element*, as recited in at least independent claim 18. Moreover, in view of the above-noted structure of the rotor of YOUNG, Applicant submits that this document fails to disclose a centrifugal rotor structured and arranged to pass the portions of the fibrous suspension to be passed and rejected by said at least one wire element *by drawing the portions of the fibrous*

*suspension radially inwardly through a gap formed between said centrifuge rotor and said at least one wire element*, as recited in at least independent claim 18. In fact, the Examiner has not identified any teaching in the art of record that even arguably suggests that a conical screen would be construed a disk, as utilized in the instant invention. Further, the Examiner has not shown any teaching to even arguably suggest that suspension is drawn through a gap between the rotor and screen, or even if a gap exists in the YOUNG structure.

Because YOUNG fails to disclose at least the above-noted features of the instant invention, Applicant submits that this document fails to show each and every recited feature of the invention. Therefore, Applicant submits that the Examiner has failed to provide an adequate evidentiary basis to support a rejection of anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and that the instant rejection should be withdrawn.

Further, Applicant submits that claims 19 – 21, 24, 27, 29, and 30 are allowable at least for the reason that these claims depend from allowable base claims and because these claims recite additional features that further define the present invention. In particular, Applicants submit that YOUNG fails to anticipate, *inter alia*, said portion of the fibrous suspension passing said at least one wire element is based on dimensions of fibrous material particles with the fibrous suspension, as recited in claim 19; said fibrous material particles comprise fibers, as recited in claim 20; said centrifugal rotor comprises a driven centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 21; said disk is closed, as recited in claim 24; an outside diameter of said centrifuge rotor is at least a same size of an outside diameter of said at least one wire element, as recited in claim 27; further comprising radially extending centrifuge ribs coupled to said centrifuge rotor, as recited in claim 29; and an outside



diameter of said centrifuge rotor comprises toothed blades, as recited in claim 30.

Accordingly, Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claim 18 – 21, 24, 27, and 29 – 30 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over YOUNG and indicate that these claims are allowable.

***Application is Allowable***

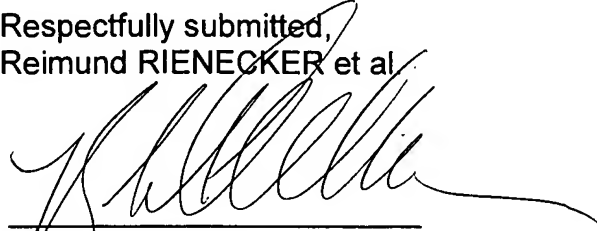
Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every pending claim of the present invention meets the requirements for patentability under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102, and respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate allowance of each and every pending claim of the present invention.

**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that none of the references of record, either taken alone or in any proper combination thereof, anticipate or render obvious the Applicants' invention, as recited in each of claims 18 – 33. The applied references of record have been discussed and distinguished, while significant claimed features of the present invention have been pointed out.

Accordingly, reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action and allowance of the present application and all the claims therein are respectfully requested and now believed to be appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,  
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